

## CUSTOMER INFORMATION BULLETIN

# TREE PLANTING IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

1055 South Grady Way-Renton, WA 98057

Phone: 425-430-7200 (then press 4)

[www.rentonwa.gov](http://www.rentonwa.gov)

**Purpose:** This handout is to assist with tree planting in the public right-of-way along streets and provide planting standards and approved tree list as part of Renton's Urban Forestry Program.

**Street trees required:** Trees are required along streets in the City of Renton per RMC 4-4-070F in many situations when development is proposed. Street trees are to be located between the curb and sidewalk or, in cases where a planting area is not present in the right-of-way, on the abutting property.\* In situations where a property owner is not required to plant a street tree in the right-of-way but would like to do so (e.g. between the curb and sidewalk), contact the Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Program Manager at 425-766-6187 for assistance or visit the Urban Forestry Program webpage at <http://rentonwa.gov/living/default.aspx?id=16702>.

**How many trees are required?** At minimum, one tree is required for each address. Additional trees may be required depending on the length of a property line along the right-of-way. Other factors, such as nearby intersections, utility poles, and stop signs will also affect tree placement. Existing trees in the right-of-way may be counted towards requirements.

**Who maintains trees in the public right-of-way?** Following installation, the abutting property owner is to maintain any new tree in the public right-of-way for the establishment period of two years, unless otherwise advised by the City. Following the two year period, maintenance for street trees within the right-of-way is the responsibility of the City per 4-6-060 unless otherwise agreed upon. Additionally, maintenance of other landscaping within the planting strip area, including but not limited to elements such as groundcover, turf, softscape, and hardscape, is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner unless otherwise agreed upon with the City of Renton.

### Notes:

\* For businesses required to plant trees where no landscape strip occurs between the sidewalk and curb, please contact the Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Manager at 425-766-6187. Generally, such difficult planting conditions require that only small-maturing trees are used.

**Tree spacing standards in the street right-of-way:** It is the goal of the City urban forestry program to plant the largest-maturing trees possible. The minimum planting width needed to plant a tree along a curbed roadway with an open planting area is 3 feet. Other factors to consider in locating trees in the right-of-way include separation distances from utility poles, stop signs, length of planting area, etc. The table below describes minimum planting area widths and spacing distance (minimum and maximum) required according to the different tree size categories found in the approved tree list.

<b>Planting Strip Width</b>	<b>Tree Size</b>	<b>Required Spacing between Same Sized Tree</b>
3-5 feet	Small	40 feet
5-8 feet	Medium	50 feet
8 feet or greater	Large	60 feet

Trees in the right-of-way must be planted to the following standards:

- Plant tree in the center of planting strip width.
- 6 feet from fire hydrants and underground utilities (i.e. water, sewer, electric, gas).
- 10 feet from utility poles, driveways, and alley margins.
- 25 feet from street lights.
- 40 feet from the corner of intersections, stop signs, and yield signs.
- At least 72 hours before you plan to dig, you MUST call 811 to request that the location of any underground or overhead utilities (gas, water, electric, etc.) be marked on your planting area. Knowing these locations in advance may save you time and money by preventing an accident.

**Approved tree list:** The City's approved tree list is not a comprehensive list of trees to use along streets. Other species and cultivars not listed may be appropriate. Consult with City of Renton Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Manager at 425-766-6187, if interested in a tree not shown on the list. Conifers are shown on the list but are only allowed on the private property side of a sidewalk when planting in the right-of-way.